

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 7-21 are currently pending. Claims 7-21 are hereby added. Claims 1-6 are hereby canceled. Claims 7-9, 11, 14-16, 18, and 21 are independent. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the Specification as originally filed.

Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,782,391 to McNeely et al. (hereinafter, merely “McNeely”).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Claims 1-6 have been canceled making the rejection of those claims moot.

As understood by the Applicants, McNeely describes a digital television (TV) signal processing system for simultaneously displaying two pictures on a single screen. A first clock is locked in phase to the timing signal used for synchronizing the display deflection circuits. A

skew shifted clock signal has a phase that is aligned with the phase of the synchronizing component of the secondary video signal, and has a period that is the same as that of the first clock. An analog-to-digital (A/D) converter converts the secondary video signal into a stream of digital samples occurring synchronously with the skew shifted clock. The first clock and the skew shifted clock signal are used to convert the stream of digital samples occurring synchronously with the skew shifted clock signal into a stream of digital samples occurring synchronously with the main clock signal. A memory, responsive to the main clock signal FCS, stores the digital samples and provides them, at an output port thereof, in synchronism with the main clock signal

In contrast, claims 7-21 have been added and avoid the McNeely reference. New claims 7-9 are directed to the reproducing or recording features shown in Figure 2. Claim 7 recites frequency clock generation, storage, selecting, converting and outputting features. These elements performing the functions recited in claim 7 are distinguishable from the McNeely reference.

Claim 10 adds the recited feature, “wherein the determining means determines the instruction provided by the user is a through output instruction, and wherein the outputting means outputs the signals without recording the signals.” That is, when the through output is instructed, the AV signals provided by the NTSC decoder are output from the monitor or the speaker without being recorded on the hard disk. Publ. App. par. [0064]

Claim 11 is directed to recording and reproducing at the same time as shown in FIGS. 3, 4 and 5-8. In an example from the specification, the user makes an instruction for recording of AV signals of a predetermined channel received from an analog tuner. In response to the user's

instruction asking to start recording to the hard disk, recording of the AV signals onto the hard disk commence. The frequency f_{srec} for the recording clock has been set initially as in FIG. 2.

When the user makes an instruction to reproduce the optical disk, a frequency-division ratio is set to the frequency division section in such a manner that the clock to be generated has the frequency of 44.1 kHz or 96 kHz. The clock frequency is set to 44.1 kHz when the reproducing optical disk is a CD or a video CD, and set to 96 kHz with a DVD. Recording/reproduction starts reproduction of the optical disk, so that the resulting reproduction video and reproduction audio are both output.

That is, a decoder decodes the AV data reproduced from the optical disk in synchronization with the clock provided by the frequency division section, outputs the video data to the video signal processing section, and outputs the audio data to the D/A converter.

The video signal processing section displays thus received video signals on the monitor via the NTSC encoder. Also, the D/A converter subjects the received audio signals to conversion, and outputs the conversion result from the speaker.

However, due to the fact that the clocks are each separately generated in the frequency division sections and, there is no need to wait until clock stabilization is derived. Accordingly, no audio interruption occurs at switching, thereby achieving instantaneous smooth switching. Publ. App. pars. [0065]-[0075].

Claims 12 and 13 are directed to the picture-in-picture (PinP) embodiment as shown in Figures 4-8. For brevity, Applicants point the example in the published application at paragraphs [0076]-[0087].

For reasons similar or somewhat similar to those described above with regard to independent claim 7, independent claims 8-9, 11, 14-16, 18, and 21 are also believed to be patentable.

III. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims are dependent from one of the claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

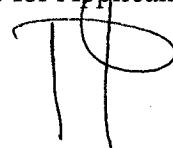
Claims 7-21 are in condition for allowance. In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosure in the cited reference, or references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for a contrary view.

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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